



February 8, 2013

The Honorable Jay Inslee  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

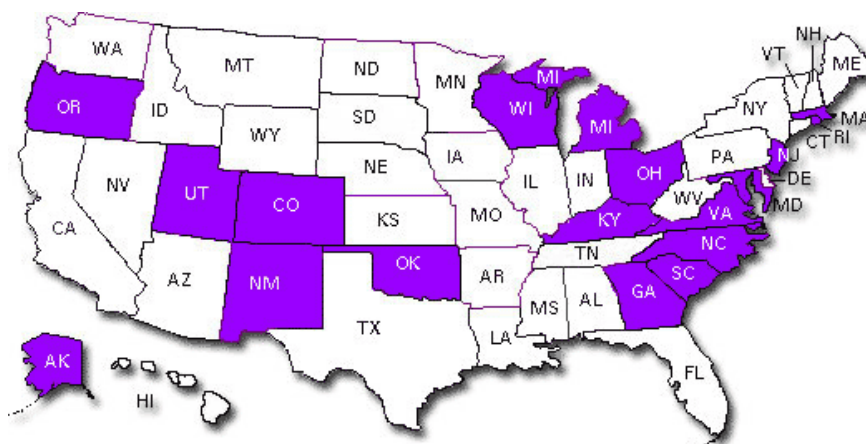
**Re: Reduce Gun Violence by Adopting National Violence Reporting System**

Dear Governor Inslee:

As elected officials throughout Washington State, we are writing to urge you through executive order to direct that our state adopt the National Violent Death Reporting System standards. Our participation will allow the facts of gun violence to be reported and consolidated – a key element to fully understanding and preventing firearm injuries and deaths.

As you know, gun violence knows no boundaries. Building on recent action to create a system to track gun violence in King County, we are asking that you enable all of Washington State – from Spokane to Seattle – to benefit from such a system.

Eighteen states—but not Washington—already participate in the National Violent Death Reporting System. This system, overseen by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, enables states to collect, report and analyze data to better understand gun-related deaths and injuries.



Shaded states have already joined the National Violent Death Reporting System.

<http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nvdrs/index.html>

While President Obama called on Congress in January to appropriate funds to incentivize additional states to participate, it is not clear whether Congress will act. Moreover, new funding is

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not necessary to compile and analyze this data which is already collected by local and state agencies. We are, therefore, urging you to direct the Washington State Department of Health to adopt the national system. The Department would then coordinate and link anonymous data from our trauma centers, police and medical examiners to create a more complete picture of the circumstances impacting violent firearm injuries and deaths.

Adopting the most robust reporting system now will provide health professionals, researchers and policy makers with the basic information they need to assess prevention interventions and, most importantly, to determine when and how we can prevent future harm and keep our residents safe.

Thank you for your consideration of our request and for your efforts to keep all of our communities safe.

Sincerely,



Tim Burgess  
Seattle City Council



Suzette Cooke  
Mayor, City of Kent



Mia Gregerson  
SeaTac City Council



Denis Law  
Mayor, City of Renton




Jon Snyder  
Spokane City Council



Ben Stuckart  
President,  
Spokane City Council



Marilyn Strickland  
Mayor,  
City of Tacoma



Paul Warden  
Mayor, City of Prosser

Cc: Mary Selecky, Secretary, Washington State Department of Health